

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



June 27, 2021

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service N/A
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class N/A
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Mike Bannister

Billy Chism... Johnny McCaghren

Deacons:

John Barnum..... Don Smith

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

Still have doubts about God?

I get it—you have doubts. Given that you are constantly bombarded with an evolutionary worldview I can certainly understand why.

But there are so many excellent proofs out there that evolution cannot explain.

Consider the idea of symbiosis for just a moment.

Symbiosis is the close interaction between two organisms that is typically advantageous for both. One of the most amazing examples of symbiosis is the relationship between the yucca plant and the yucca moth. Each is dependent on the other for its survival. The yucca plant is physically incapable of pollinating itself to grow more seeds and perpetuate. The yucca moth (*Pronuba*) pollinates the yucca plant while laying its eggs inside the plant. This is a three-step process.

First the moth lands on the stamens (the male part of a flower, which produces pollen) of one of the yucca's flowers. It then makes a sticky ball of pollen that it carries underneath its neck by a special appendage unique to this moth species.

Second, the moth flies to another yucca flower, lands on the pistil (the female part, which grows the fruit and seed) and inserts one of its eggs inside the base of the pistil, the flower's ovary.

Third, the moth climbs the pistil and carefully places pollen from its ball inside the stigma's tube at its top, thus pollinating this part of the flower. The moth repeats the first and second steps of the process for one flower until each ovule has one moth egg in it and each stigma has had pollen put into it. After hatching, the moth larvae feed on the seeds of the yucca.

Remarkably, the moth carefully calibrates the number of its larvae growing inside each flower so the larvae will not consume all the seeds of the yucca—because if they ate all the seeds the yucca plants would stop reproducing, thus eventually dooming the yucca moths as well! By pollinating the plant, the moth develops food (yucca seeds) for its larvae while ensuring the plant can continue its own kind as well.

But that's not all.

The life cycle of the yucca moth is timed so the adult moths emerge in early summer—exactly when the yucca plants are in flower. How could such a process as the yucca moth-plant symbiotic relationship have developed by gradual steps in an evolutionary process that proceeds by blind chance?

What conceivable sequence of minor changes over thousands or millions of years could have possibly produced a perfect, mutually beneficial arrangement between plant and animal species?

Darwinism offers no answers. It is obvious that this remarkable relationship appeared abruptly or it never could have developed at all.

Brad Harrub (focuspress.org)

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Love + Grace + Mercy = God's Lovingkindness

Since God exists and the Bible is the Inspired Word of God, we are assured that what the Bible teaches about the nature of God is absolutely true. Although humans are limited and unable to exhaustively comprehend everything about God (cf., Job 11:7; 26:14; Isa. 40:28; Rom. 11:33-34), there are some truths that can be known about God (Deut. 29:29). God has sufficiently revealed Himself through nature (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-20), through the Bible (Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17) and, in a limited sense, through humanity, because every human being is made in the "image" and "likeness" of God (Gen. 1:26-27).

God's nature is made up of His essence and attributes. For the sake of study, these can be separated and examined. However, they are so interconnected and interwoven with one another that they are inseparable in the total makeup of God. Essence refers to substance; that which underlies all outward manifestations; that in which the qualities, or attributes, inhere (Henry Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 119). If there were no essence there could be no attributes. Humans are, in a limited way, like God's essence in that we are spiritual in nature like God.

Attributes are the objective qualities that inhere in the substance (essence); they denote the way in which God exists and operates (Thiessen, 123). The non-moral attributes of God are those that do not involve moral qualities (e.g., omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence). Humans cannot be like God in these attributes. The moral attributes of God are those that involve moral qualities (e.g., holiness, love, justice, etc.). To a limited extent, man can and must become like God in these attributes (Matt. 5:48). For example, God said, "You shall be holy; for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44; cf., 1 Pet. 1:15-16). John taught that our love should be patterned after and like God's love (1 John 4:9-17). Again, God's essence and attributes are so interwoven and related to each other that one cannot be totally excluded from the presence of the others. God's love, grace and mercy are

among His most valued attributes.

God' Love

God's love and care for humans, the "crown" of His creation (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25), are well attested throughout Scripture and worthy of our study. God is loving. The kind of love God has for us is not based on outward appearance nor upon family relationship. Rather, God's love is willed to us, irrespective of whether we love Him back. God always seeks the highest good in the objects of His love. This is demonstrated in the most famous verse about God's love: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God sought the highest good for the world by sending His Son to die for it. God offers the greatest good to the world through His Son, "everlasting love"! God loves sinners while hating sin (John 3:16; Ps. 45:7). Sometimes, however, the sin is so attached to the sinner that it can be said God does "hate all workers of iniquity" (Ps. 5:5). Again, God's great love is demonstrated through Christ (Rom. 5:8). God's love is the basis for our love one to another (1 John 4:20-21; 1 Cor. 13). God's love will endure forever (Rom. 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 13:13). The love of God demands our love in return (1 John 4:19). It must also be realized that our love for God cannot be separated from our obedience to Him (John 14:15, 23; 15:12-14; 1 John 5:3). God's love, however, does not imply approval for everything people might do. He never ceased loving even those whom He "gave... up" because of their persistent sin (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

God's Grace and Mercy

Grace and mercy are two other parts of God's lovingkindness. God's loving grace and mercy are not a matter of debt. That is, God neither owes us grace nor mercy. If each were of debt, then each, by definition, would be impossible. Grace is goodness from God's love and extended to the undeserving. It can simply be defined

(Continued on page 3)

Television

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

June 27 Deuteronomy 5—6; Prov. 27
June 28 Deut. 7—8; Prov. 28 (video)
June 29 Deuteronomy 9—10; Prov. 29
June 30 Deut. 11—12; Prov. 30
July 1 Deut. 13—14; Prov. 31
July 2 Deut. 15—16; Psalm 1 (video)
July 3 Deut. 17—18; Psalm 2
July 4 Deut. 19—20; Psalm 3

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **26** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Junior camp begins today.** We have several that will be attending (Maylaine, Rachel, Ian, and John). Please keep all the campers and staff in your prayers.
- ◆ Since it is a camp week, there will be **no SYS this week.**

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ July 18 pm—Mission Printing Update
- ◆ August 10—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 17-20—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Ross Haffner

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ June 8—August 10: **Summer Youth Series** each Tuesday evening at 7:00pm (except camp weeks; see flyer on bulletin board for locations and topics)
- ◆ June 27—July 1—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ July 18-23—**Senior Camp**

(Continued from page 2)

as favor. Grace is offered to all. *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men”* (Titus 2:11). However, grace is also *“teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”* (Titus 2:12-13). Thus, unless we heed grace’s teaching, it cannot save us! Grace is the avenue of salvation (Rom. 11:6; Eph. 2:8-9). Faith is the means of accessing grace (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:8). Biblical faith requires obedience (Luke 6:46; Jas. 2:14-26). Forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ is the greatest demonstration of God’s grace (2 Cor. 5:21; 9:15).

Mercy has often been described as when a person **does not receive** what he or she deserves, whereas **grace** has been described as when a person **receives** what he or she does not deserve. While this may have some truth, it does not give the whole picture. Mercy is actually kindness or loving, good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them (Joseph Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon*, 203). Because of sin, mankind deserves death (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1-4), but because of God’s mercy, mankind does not necessarily have to receive death! Because of sin, mankind does not deserve salvation, but because of God’s grace, mankind can receive it – *“by grace you have been saved”* (Eph. 2:5-7)! When understanding the severe consequences of sin, every human being is the recipient of God’s mercy, at least in a limited way, as being part of this creation (Matt. 5:45), which is designed to point people to the God of salvation (Acts 17:23-28). Additionally, God’s saving mercy is always extended to those who “reverentially” obey Him (Luke 1:50) (Thayer, 656). God’s plan of salvation, therefore, is not only an act of grace, but it is also an act of His mercy (Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:3).

God is full of lovingkindness! His love, grace and mercy are extended to us each day. What is our response to Him? Do we take it for granted? Or, do we express our appreciation for God’s lovingkindness? Can we say, like Paul, *“By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”* (1 Cor. 15:10)? Let us show our appreciation for God’s great lovingkindness!

Brian R. Kenyon (Gospel Gazette Online, June 2021, 4)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

Records

	June 13, 2021	June 20, 2021
Bible Class	39	33
AM Worship	49 + [9]	39 + [11]
PM Worship	41 + [5]	37 + [8]
Wednesday PM	25 + [8]	36 + [6]
Contribution	\$2,102	\$1,184



Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 6/27/21	Next Week: 7/4/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	June 2021 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	James Fuller, Kyle Duaine Randy Huckaby, Rafe Smith	Chase Churchwell, Daniel Edwards Ryan Rudloff, Ryan Settles		
Closing Prayer	Dex Dennard	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	July 2021 Make Announcements: Dex Dennard Prepare Communion: Duaine / Edwards Clean Building: Duaine / Edwards	
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	Mike Bannister (Mt. 15:1-9)	James Fuller (Mk. 7:24-30)		
Communion	James Fuller	Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 30 Don Smith	July 7 Prayer Night		

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of June 27, 2021

Sunday Class I Corinthians 15:35
 Wed. Class Leviticus 18:24

<u>Cleansed by Blood</u> (Leviticus 16)	<u>Reproach for Disregarding Tradition</u> (Mt. 15:1-20; Mk. 7:1-23)
<p>I. Israel was Cleansed by Blood.</p> <p>A. The Frequency of Blood Sacrifices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The shedding of blood was instrumental in the individual Israelite's being forgiven of his sins – "trespass offerings" and "sin offerings." The congregation, Israel as a whole, was also dependent on blood for cleansing – the offering of a male goat on various feast days, especially the Day of Atonement. <p>B. The Significance of Blood Sacrifices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." (Lev. 17:11). The animal was punished in place of the sinful person; it received the penalty for the sins of the human being. <p>II. Christians are Cleansed by Blood.</p> <p>A. The offering of Jesus Christ on the cross was a better sacrifice than the offering of bulls and goats in several ways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One who was both human and divine: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. A willing sacrifice. A sinless sacrifice. A once-for-all-time sacrifice. It would take away sins. <p>B. Our salvation by blood is like that of the Israelites in that they were, in a sense, saved initially by blood and then cleansed continually by blood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Israel became God's holy people when they were delivered by the Lord out of Egypt, which involved the shedding of lamb's blood. Soon afterward, God gave the Israelites a sacrificial system to provide them with continual cleansing from their sins. We are saved today by Christ's blood at baptism. Furthermore, "If we walk in the light ... the blood of Jesus Christ" continuously "cleanses us from all sin" (1 Jn. 1:7). <p>C. The sacrifices for sin under the Levitical laws were substitutionary sacrifices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The animal was killed in the place of the sinner who deserved to be killed. We see the greater reality: the substitution of Christ for sinners. 	<p>I. The Third Passover (see Jn. 6:4; 7:11).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near" (Jn. 6:4). Scholars believe that Jesus did not attend this Passover, based on John 7:1: "After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him." We have no record of any events in Jerusalem related to this Passover. <p>II. Reproach for Disregarding Tradition (Mt. 15:1-20; Mk. 7:1-23).</p> <p>A. The Pharisees come with a new allegation: Jesus' disciples were eating with unwashed hands, thereby breaking an ancient tradition. Unfortunately, the oral traditions became more important than the Word of God.</p> <p>B. Jesus turned the bothersome interruption into a beneficial interlude by using it as an opportunity to teach needed lessons on man-made traditions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus doesn't defend the disciples because they are guilty as charged. Instead, Jesus blasts the Pharisees on two fronts. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> First, He calls them "hypocrites." Second, He quotes Isaiah 29:13 and lays it directly at their doorstep. Next, Jesus illustrates the fact with a "case in point" – Corban. Corban arose out of a correct theology (obligations to God are more important than obligations to any human), but the opportunity for abuse is obvious. <p>C. Jesus warned His disciples regarding the Pharisees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He compared the teachings of the Pharisees to weeds that would be pulled up by God (Mt. 15:13). He referred to these religious leaders as blind guides leading the blind. <p>D. Jesus explains that the basic tenet of the hand washing tradition was flawed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Even if some morsel should be ceremonially defiled, it doesn't stick around to do you any harm – it just passes through. (Jesus is addressing the issue of ceremonial defilement, not truly harmful substances.) What does make a man defiled, however, is what comes out of his mouth.